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Ch / FCYAC

29 August 1970

**MEMORANDUM FOR: COINS Project Manager**

**THROUGH: CIA COINS Subsystem Manager**

**SUBJECT: Survey of COINS Biographic Files**

**REFERENCE: COINS/139-70, Review of Data Bases in COINS Experiment,  
28 March 1970**

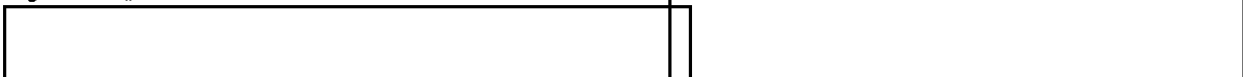
1. Referenced memorandum designated a study of the COINS biographic files. This memorandum discusses the value and utility of the following seven COINS



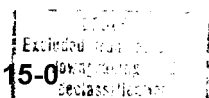
**FINDINGS**

2. The data for the findings of this paper was accumulated by a questionnaire (attachment A) which asked eight different users (representing State, DIA, NIC, [redacted] and CIA/CRS) about their familiarity with and use of the COINS biographic files. Suggestions for improvements were also elicited. Attachments B (familiarity/use statistics), C (suggested data improvements) and D (suggested system improvements) provide details of users' comments.

3. Before discussing the findings of this survey, I would like to point out what I feel are several limitations. The survey is limited both by the small sampling and by the specialized interests of those sampled [redacted]



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for availability on magnetic tape than for content, are patently open to criticism for lack of standardization and exhaustivity. As computer files built to provide readily certain data they may serve their purpose well, but in a COINS environment they may be less desirable.

4. In general, this survey determined that five of the files (all but FPP and SMP) were known to 50% or more of those queried, but that only three files

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